

Contributing to Church Funds using a Standing Order

It's Sunday morning...

You are running late for church when you suddenly realise that you haven't sorted your offering envelope for the service. First problem, you can't remember where you left the box of envelopes. The envelopes are eventually tracked down in a kitchen cupboard and now you need to recall how much it is you usually give each week and to which funds. And then you open your wallet only to discover that the one thing you didn't get around to on your 'to do' list yesterday was take a trip to the cash point. Oh well, you'll just have to put double in next week... if you remember.

I realise that this may never have happened to you but I am sure that there are others who can relate to it, or something similar, as a regular occurrence.

These days a large proportion of the population pay bills by direct debit or standing order and I would like to suggest that, for some, it is worth considering giving church offerings by standing order.

Giving by standing order. What are the benefits?

- It may help you avoid the Sunday morning panic described above.
- When working on your personal budget you will have a clear idea of how much you plan to give in church offerings.
- When setting up your standing order you can take time considering each of the church funds and how you wish to divide up your offerings between them.
- A single standing order payment can be used for regular contributions to the local congregation, to the Mission Centre and to World Mission Tithes.
- It is a good way for those who are not able to attend worship each week to contribute financially on a regular basis.

Setting up a standing order

If you decide that you wish to contribute by standing order what do you need to do?

Step 1

Decide how much you are able to give each month and how you want this to be split between the various funds to which you will be contributing.

(The article that Derek Judd wrote earlier this year describing the purpose of each fund should help you with this. Please contact me if you would like a copy of this article.)

Step 2

Complete an 'Analysis of Monthly Standing Order' form. You will need to give this to your congregational financial officer.

Step 3

Complete a paper standing order form or do this on-line if you use on-line banking. You will need to include on the form details of your own bank account and the details of your congregation's bank account. This can be obtained from your congregational financial officer or from me. If you have completed a paper form then send it to the local branch of your bank.

Some people decide to still give their local offerings using an envelope and to give their Mission Centre and World Church offerings by standing order. If you choose to do this then you may prefer to have the standing order paid directly into the Mission Centre account rather than into the congregation one. I can provide details of the Mission Centre bank account.

What do I do when the offering plate comes around?

I have been asked by some considering setting up a standing order what they should do when the offering is taken up in the congregation's worship service. The choice is yours but my suggestion would be for you to put an empty offering envelope into the plate. This is symbolic of the offering that you are giving by standing order. There is a box that you may mark on the front of each offering envelope to indicate that you usually contribute in some other way or at some other time.

Reviewing your Standing Order

If you do set up a standing order it is good practice to review this on a regular basis, probably annually, to see if, and by how much, you are able to increase the amount you give. If you amend or cancel your standing order instruction at any time please advise the financial officer of any changes that you make.

I am aware that there are many who give regularly using their offering envelopes and are happy to continue to do this. That is absolutely fine and I am very appreciative of the generosity of those who give in this way. I do believe, however, that giving by standing order is a good option for many. It is a way to ensure that contributions to the on-going work of the church are part of your financial planning.

If you have any questions about giving by standing order please feel free to contact me.

Andrew

Andrew Fox
Mission Centre Financial Officer

ANALYSIS OF MONTHLY STANDING ORDER PAYMENT

Name _____

Date _____

£

£

Mission Centre

Mission Centre Ministries _____

Field Minister Support _____

New Field Minister _____

Children's Holiday Camps _____

Dunfield _____

Peacemobile _____

Mission Centre Total _____

World Mission Tithes

World Ministries _____

Oblation _____

World Hunger _____

Outreach International _____

World Mission Tithes Total _____

Total per standing order _____

STANDING ORDER FORM

To the Manager

Name of Bank _____

Address of Bank _____

_____ Post code _____

Please pay on the _____ day of _____ (month) 20__ (year)

and on the same day each succeeding month/quarter/year
(delete where not applicable)

until further notice to Community of Christ the sum of £

Full name _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Your account number _____ Your sort code __/__/__

Signature _____ Date _____

Community of Christ bank details

Bank name:

Address:

Account name:

Account number:

Sort code: